

Appl. No. 09/394,660

a rear wall pivotally connected to the rear edge of the bottom support structure by a rear wall hinge;

wherein the front and rear walls are pivotal about the front wall hinge and rear wall hinge, respectively, toward and away from a closed configuration;

wherein the front, rear and side walls mate together in the closed configuration to define an enclosed volume in the ticket dispenser to hold the plurality of tickets; and

a powered drive module in the enclosed volume proximate the front wall, the powered drive module receiving the tickets for dispensing from the ticket dispenser.

#### REMARKS

This is responsive to the Final Office Action dated April 24, 2001. The Office Action indicated that the drawings are objected to because Fig. 11 appears to inaccurately include numeral 13. Applicants greatly appreciate the identification of this error. Applicants have included a proposed drawing change to Fig. 11 showing the correction in red ink as suggested in the Office Action to change the numeral 13 to numeral 213. Applicants respectfully request approval of this drawing change.

The disclosure was objected to because the specification does not provide a description for numeral 54 as shown in Fig. 1. To correct this oversight, applicants proposes a drawing change to Fig. 1 to delete numeral 54, as well as the lead line associated with that numeral as shown in red ink on the enclosed Fig. 1. Applicants respectfully request approval of this drawing change to Fig. 1.

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All of the claims pending in this application (nos. 1, 4-6, 10, 13-15 and 17-19) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims were allegedly replete with vague and indefinite language. In response, applicants have canceled claim 1 and introduced new claim 33 as a substitute. Applicants believe that new claim 33 satisfies 35 U.S.C. § 112, is definite and patentable over the prior art. Claims 4-6 have been amended also to correct the § 112 issues identified in the Office Action as well as to reflect dependency from new claim 33.

Similarly, claims 10, 13 and 15 have been amended to address the § 112 issues identified in the Office Action.

In summary, applicants respectfully assert that each objection and rejection identified in the Final Office Action has been addressed and/or overcome in this amendment. If the Examiner feels that any matter in this case requires further attention prior to issuing a Notice of Allowance, he is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved.

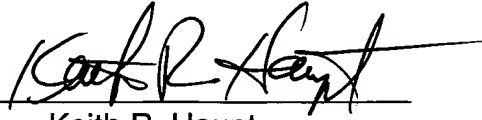
If the Examiner decides not to enter this Amendment After Final, he is respectfully asked to promptly notify the undersigned by fax and/or by phone for appropriate action.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

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Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

4.(Amended) A ticket dispenser as in Claim [1] 33 in which said drive module includes a separator mechanism for separating one or more of said tickets from one of said strips before dispensing them.

5.(Twice Amended) A ticket dispenser as in Claim [1] 33 in which said drive module further comprises:

[a housing having] at least one inlet opening for admitting plural parallel ticket strips [into said enclosure,] therein;

at least one outlet opening for issuing tickets from one of said [strip,] strips;

a drive motor [driving] coupled to a drive shaft[,];

a plurality of input drive rollers rotatably mounted on a common shaft[,]; and

[selectively operable] transmission means for selectively coupling said input drive rollers to said drive shaft for selectively feeding tickets in one of said strips through said module and out through said outlet opening.

6.(Twice Amended) A ticket dispenser as in Claim [1] 33 in which said [cover] rear wall is at least partially transparent, and said [cover forms] rear wall includes a curved portion [rear side wall for said enclosure, said housing comprising two sections joined together along a vertical line adjacent the inlet side of said drive module, and at least

one housing extension element having bottom, top and side walls secured between said housing halves].

10.(Twice Amended)        A ticket dispensing installation, comprising a ticket dispenser which has [a housing having] a bottom wall, a pair of side walls extending upwardly from said bottom wall, a front side wall hinged adjacent [its] a bottom edge thereof to said bottom wall at a first side so as to swing outwardly and downwardly from said side walls, a cover hinged to said bottom wall at a side opposite said first side[ and shaped to cover] of said bottom wall, said front side wall and said cover defining an [with space between said bottom wall and said cover, said space being adapted] enclosed volume to contain a plurality of arrays of tickets in strips with individual tickets being delineated from one another by lines of weakness, a drive module in said [housing] ticket dispenser, said drive module being positioned adjacent said front side wall in a location to receive strips of tickets from said arrays, said drive module containing drive means for dispensing a predetermined number of tickets from a selected one of said arrays, said cover being at least partially transparent to permit viewing of said ticket strips [from a vantage point looking towards said opposite side of said bottom], a check-out counter [in a store, said check-out counter] having a first position at which the customer normally is located and a second position at which a store clerk normally is located, said ticket dispenser being mounted on said checkout counter with the [opposite side of said housing] cover facing said first position at said check-out counter when purchases

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are being checked-out, and said front side wall facing said second position at said check-out counter, [the] a top of said cover being substantially flat to provide a convenient support surface on which to write.

13.(Amended)        A dispensing installation as in Claim 10 in which said drive module includes a helical separator member spanning a plurality of different channels of said dispenser[, and including a drive motor for selectively rotating said separator member] to separate at least one ticket from any of said ticket strips, said drive module including [means for moving each of said strips past said separator member, and for moving separated tickets out of said housing, and including] electronic control means for inputting ticket selection and ticket quantity information into said drive module to cause said dispenser to dispense a selected number of tickets [of one or more types from said dispenser].

15.(Twice Amended)        A ticket dispensing installation for use by customers at a checkout counter, the ticket dispensing installation comprising:

          a ticket [storage housing] dispenser for storing and dispensing a plurality of strips of tickets [in said housing], said [housing] ticket dispenser having a first side wall and [an opposed] a second side wall, a bottom structure secured to said side walls, and an at least partially transparent cover, [as well as] said cover having a substantially flat upper surface, said [housing] ticket dispenser containing a powered dispensing

mechanism for selectively dispensing tickets from said strips [out of said housing, a check-out counter for a store], said ticket [storage housing] dispenser being mounted on said checkout counter with said flat upper surface accessible to customers while they are having their purchases checked out.

33.(NEW) A ticket dispenser for containing and dispensing a plurality of tickets in which each ticket is joined to an adjacent ticket by a line of weakness to form a strip of tickets, the ticket dispenser comprising:

- a bottom support structure having a front edge, a rear edge and a pair of spaced side edges;

- a pair of side walls each of which extends upwardly from one of the side edges of the bottom support structure;

- a front wall pivotally connected to the front edge of the bottom support structure by a front wall hinge;

- a rear wall pivotally connected to the rear edge of the bottom support structure by a rear wall hinge;

- wherein the front and rear walls are pivotal about the front wall hinge and rear wall hinge, respectively, toward and away from a closed configuration;

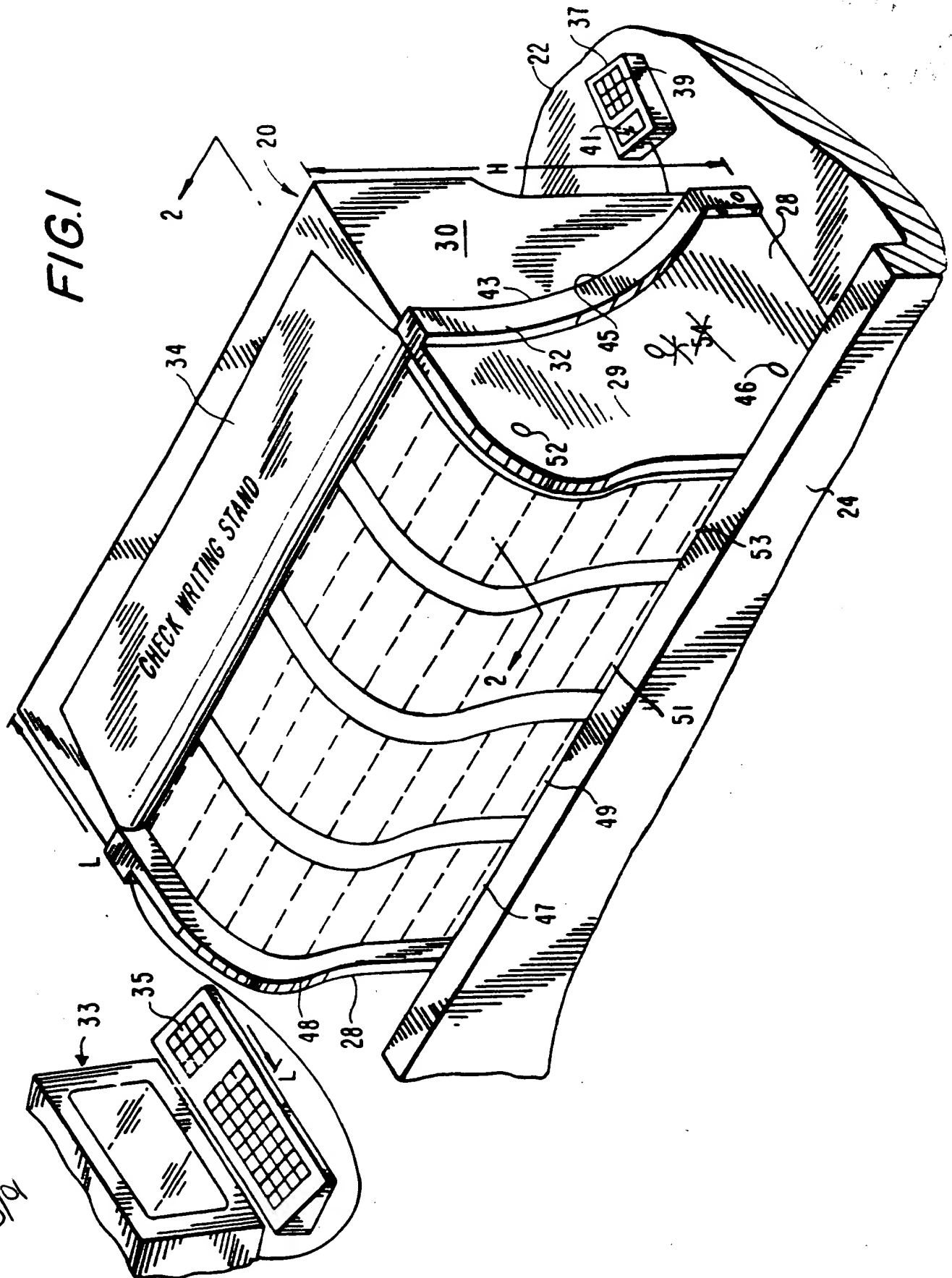
- wherein the front, rear and side walls mate together in the closed configuration to define an enclosed volume in the ticket dispenser to hold the plurality of tickets; and

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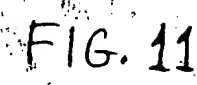
a powered drive module in the enclosed volume proximate the front wall, the powered drive module receiving the tickets for dispensing from the ticket dispenser.



FIG. 1



Approved  
GD 8/3/91



Approved  
CD 8/3/01